

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

By R. F. ROONEY, M. D., Auburn.

Ladies and gentlemen, and members of the Medical Society of the State of California: Owing to a slight unpleasantness—duration, 45 seconds—which occurred in San Francisco one year ago, followed by the disastrous fire, it again becomes my pleasant duty to preside over this august body, in annual session assembled. I am an accident in this chair at this meeting, holding the unique position of president for the second consecutive year. This was neither your fault nor mine, so no comment is needed—merely remarking that it was due to "circumstances over which we had no control." Under these conditions, being the "accident" that I am, I do not intend to inflict upon you a long address. But you need not sigh with satisfaction at this statement, as I can not let you escape entirely free.

I feel it incumbent upon me at this time to enter a little into detail concerning the catastrophe which so quickly ended our meeting one year ago, and to note such things as may prove of interest to you, but of especial interest to our successors who may perchance read these words in the annals of our society in the future years.

On the 17th day of April, one year ago, we met in the city of San Francisco, in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, for our annual session. We had mapped out a four days' meeting, with an extra day for clinics at the various large hospitals of the city. We anticipated a rich treat, both scientifically and socially. This anticipation was amply fulfilled for the first day, for the program was rich in scientific worth, and the evening meeting of the House of Delegates was large and harmonious. It was the season of grand opera in the city, and as we made our way to the evening meeting, private residences and the great hostelrys of the city were issuing to waiting carriages hundreds of men in evening dress, and fair women decked in richest garb of silks, laces and jewels. The other theaters and places of public amusement were also calling their crowds, the streets were thronged with happy pedestrians, and the light jest and careless laugh ruled the hour. After our evening meeting was ended we came out to quiet streets and an ideal night. The ordinary pedestrians had mostly left the streets, the theaters had not yet given up their crowds, and nothing jarred upon the ear but the clanging gongs of the street cars. The pulsing artery of a great city's commerce was stilled, but the myriad lights of a great and proud capital gleamed and flamed and the great finger of the Ferry building pointed to heaven, outlined by a band of living fire.

No man at this moment could even have dreamed, in the most hideous nightmare, that within twenty-four short hours all this would be a charred and blackened ruin, with the inhabitants fleeing for their very lives.

We retired to our beds in peace and quiet, and

at 5:15 the next morning were shaken out of our beds, and our belief in the stability of our Mother Earth, by the great earthquake which directly and indirectly wrought such ruin and havoc in San Francisco. In one short moment everything was changed from peace, plenty and contentment, to death, terror and despair. Hundreds went down to death with the toppling buildings and thousands were mutilated and wounded. Other thousands escaped by narrow margins, and for a while every one was paralyzed. Great fires started and began eating north, west and south. The outlook was appalling. Among the very first to recover presence of mind were the members of our own profession. When word went out that thousands of wounded and dying were caught in the ruins of the falling buildings the physicians of San Francisco, neglectful of all selfish thoughts, flew to their work and aided and directed in the rescue of those in need of their skill.

I thank God that such noble examples of devotion to duty were exhibited by men of our own profession. It gratifies me to raise my voice at this moment in praise of the faithful men who flew to duty's post—and stayed there. Physicians, by both training and the lessons taught them by the calls of their profession, are taught to consider the wants of the sick and suffering first and of their own needs last. Hence it was that no class of men in San Francisco suffered as severely by loss of worldly goods as did the physicians and surgeons of that fire-swept city. Whilst they wrought over the sick and wounded, carrying them from one place to another in hope of safety, their offices and all the contents thereof withered in the flames like a leaf thrown in the fire on the hearth. Whilst they remained on duty, regardless of aught else, their very homes were going up in smoke, with not a memento saved. All was gone save the garments they wore, and still they wrought on, without hope or thought of fee or reward. In the after weeks the pinch came, especially to many of the younger men. Without patients, home, money, office or instruments, many a deserving man found himself in the condition described in the words of the old song: "Too proud to beg, too honest to steal, I know what it is to be wanting a meal." Another thing which further robbed these men of their opportunities was the organization of relief hospitals from outside the city. Surgeons from other cities, and even from other states, were brought in under large salaries by at least one political influence, and the deserving men of San Francisco were left to walk the streets in hunger. Such a travesty on charity would make the angels weep.

But, thank God, all is not self in this world. Offers of aid came pouring in upon me, as president of the State Society, from the A. M. A. down to my own county society, all of which I referred to Dr. Wallace I. Terry, president of San Francisco County Society, I being too far from the scene of action to take a part in the aid of our suffering brethren.

And here, as president of the Medical Society of the State of California, and on behalf of its members, I wish to record my deep gratitude to all our medical brethren, wherever they may dwell, who

stretched out helping hands to the unfortunate of our brethren in the city of San Francisco at their time of need. Thanks to this timely aid and their own pluck, nearly every medical man in the city is upon his feet again.

I will not intrude upon your time with an account of any of my personal adventures on the morning of the earthquake, save what immediately concerns this society. Suffice it to say that, in common with all other inmates of the city, I was shaken out of bed—and my usual serenity of mind—in the rudest possible manner. After having regained my mental equipoise—and my clothing—I descended to the street, to see the saddest sight of my life—a great and beautiful city ruined. The reopening of our session at 9 a. m. lay heavy on my mind. I believed it to be my duty to be there, if possible to accomplish the journey over the masses of debris and past the tottering walls. I arrived there close to the hour and found the hall in ruins. You who were there remember it. All the great cornice lay upon the sidewalk, the walls gaped with rents and the glass of the windows lay shattered on the ground. The following members were gathered at the door, sadly gazing at the ruins: Our secretary, Dr. Philip Mills Jones; Past President Dr. H. Bert Ellis, Dr. J. H. Parkinson, Dr. Woods-Hutchinson, and one other member, to whom I owe an apology for forgetting his name. This little company crossed to the opposite sidewalk to avoid falling bricks, and after a moment's consultation I adjourned the thirty-sixth annual meeting of this society, sine die. Since that day the councilors have done all our business, and we owe them our sincere thanks for the manner in which they have piloted us through the difficulties of the year.

The losses of this society caused by the fire following the earthquake were heavy and have crippled us severely. It has taxed the business ability of our councilors to provide for the maintenance of our publications during the year without running the society deeply in debt. Owing to the increase in cost, both for labor and material, the expense of publication of the JOURNAL and the Register was greater than ever before, and we were less able to pay. The future offers no brighter outlook for some time, and we must stand prepared to keep our membership fee at about its present size until we get upon our feet again.

The losses were as follows:

Lost on JOURNAL advertising.....	\$ 452.30
Paper on hand.....	437.68
New equipment, office furniture, stationery, etc.....	1,067.21
Re-establishing card files (when finished)	1,000.00
Further losses of property on hand.....	750.00

Making a total of losses of.....\$3,707.19

According to our estimates for the past year, we should have had an excess of income of \$1,446, which would have wiped out all old indebtedness and left us with a comfortable surplus. How all these perplexities have been met I leave for the other officers to explain.

Owing to the premature dissolution of our last annual meeting, two subjects that I earnestly called your attention to were left unconsidered. I refer to state laboratories and standardization of medical education. I venture to again call your attention to the latter subject, as it is so vital to the profession. I repeat what I said last year:

An important movement recently entered upon by the American Medical Association is that of attempting to standardize and elevate medical education. It is well worthy of support, and I call your most serious attention to the matter. The American Medical Association has adopted the following standard requirements requisite to the practice of medicine:

1. Preliminary requirements are to be a high school education or its equivalent, such as would admit the student to one of our recognized universities.

2. Preliminary requirements to be passed upon by a state official, such as the superintendent of public instruction, and not by an official of the medical college.

3. A medical training in a medical college, having four years of not less than thirty weeks each year, of thirty hours per week of actual work.

4. Graduation from an approved medical college required to entitle the candidate to an examination before a state examining board.

5. The passing of a satisfactory examination before a state examining board.

I would therefore recommend that in order to carry out the foregoing you alter the by-laws of this society to enable it to appoint a committee on the advancement of medical education, to co-operate with that of the national association. Any power we now have is vested in our committee on public policy and legislation, and the scope of this committee does not properly cover this work. The duties of the proposed committee could be inserted in our by-laws, and have been advised by the council on medical education of the A. M. A. as follows:

"The committee on medical education shall consist of three members; one member shall be elected to serve for one, one for two and one for three years; thereafter one member shall be elected each year to serve for three years.

"The functions of the committee shall be: (1) to co-operate with the state examining board in matters pertaining to medical education; (2) to make an annual report to the House of Delegates on the existing condition of medical education in the state; (3) to co-operate with the council of education of the American Medical Association of the United States."

The time is ripe for energetic work in this direction, and I take pleasure in directing your attention to it.

In addition to this I quote a letter received last October from the secretary of the council:

DEAR DOCTOR: Since the work of raising

medical standards in the United States depends very largely upon the forces in each state, the work of your state committee on medical education is of extreme importance. In order that these committees from the various states may benefit by a free exchange of ideas, we should like to have such arrangements made that would make it possible for a representative of each state committee, preferably the chairman, to be present each year at our annual conference. In considering how to secure a larger representation from these committees the traveling expenses of the delegates appear as an important item. We should like to ask, therefore, whether your state society would be willing to make provision in their annual budget for the expenses of this delegate. Our conferences are attended by many leading educators as well as many representatives of the various examining boards. Subjects are discussed and ideas brought out which would be of great value to every state committee on education, and we believe that the ideas as well as the enthusiasm from these conferences would be worth to your state many times over the amount paid for a delegate's expenses.

Awaiting with interest your reply, we are
Yours very truly,

COUNCIL ON MEDICAL EDUCATION.

Per N. P. COLWELL, Secretary.

I had to answer that "owing to the breaking up of our last session by the earthquake and fire, no action had been taken on this question, but that at the next annual meeting I would again call the attention of our society to the matter." I have now done so, and leave it in your hands once more.

Another subject that I recall your attention to is that of fees for examinations for life insurance. The matter was threshed over at our last meeting, but did not come to a vote. Now, with further light upon the subject given us in the preliminary report of the committee on insurance of the A. M. A., we can act for the good of the profession in this state. I commend that report to your serious consideration and urge you to get in line with the eighteen other societies that have taken action on this very perplexing question.

Another subject of thought I offer you: You all know how the evil of proprietary and secret medicines has occupied the minds, and many pens, of the profession during the past five years. The A. M. A. has devised a plan of dealing with this question that is simply admirable and which, if properly backed up by our state societies and leaders, will solve the problem. This remedy is found in the work of the council on pharmacy and chemistry of the A. M. A. Let us approve that work and recommend to our members that they use no medicines outside the Pharmacopœia, saving those that have been approved by that council.

I wish to direct your attention to another matter which I had in mind to present to you later on at our last session. This was prevented by the bad attack of "shakes" that San Francisco experienced at

that time. A short time previous to that date I received the following letter from Dr. Henry O. Marcy, of Boston, which explains itself:

MY DEAR DOCTOR ROONEY: You have been appointed coassociate with me as representative of your state to solicit funds for a proper memorial to the late Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, the founder of the American Medical Association. We do not require a large sum of money, but would much rather secure a small contribution from the many who loved him and who will consider it a privilege to thus help honor his memory. Five hundred dollars from a like number of members of your association would be appreciated more than twice the sum from a single individual. If voted from the funds of the state society, would it not equally represent all the membership? Yours sincerely,
HENRY O. MARCY.

March 9, 1906.

I believe that we should do our part in honoring this "father in Israel" of our own profession, and if you can not see your way clear to give a sum from our treasury in its present depleted condition, I suggest that you appoint some member to make appeal to the individuals of this body, granting sufficient funds to cover stamps and stationery for the purpose.

One other subject I wish to call your earnest attention to before I close. It is the great benefit that medical organization is proving, both to the individual members as well as to the profession at large. When two thousand men speak in unison, the volume of sound carries to the dullest ear. The politician who ever keeps an ear cocked to the wind of public opinion listens with the utmost attention, when he would never hear or heed the individual's cry. The old motto that "In union is strength" comes to us with new emphasis when we see what it has done, is doing and may do for the profession when applied to our political affairs. I ask you to send out some ringing message to all the profession throughout the state, showing the benefits of our county and state organizations and asking their support, both for the sake of the profession and of their own.

And now for a short history of our proceedings since the last annual meeting and an explanation of why your officers are all "holdovers." Very soon after the San Francisco meeting was so rudely broken up I entered into correspondence with our secretary and other officers and members as to the advisability of calling the House of Delegates together to complete its unfinished work. I was advised by all to wait until our San Francisco members had found their feet again and were able to attend to other matters than their own personal ones. I waited until August, and on the 22d of that month the council discussed the matter, and advised that everything should remain as it was. They considered that if the delegates assembled and completed the elections the legality of a special election might give rise to litigation if a new member, or members, of the board of examiners were elected.

As we have had abundance of trouble in that line, anyway, it was not thought best to solicit new attacks by this proceeding. Therefore the council unanimously decided to recommend that no election be held, as under the constitution all officers will hold office until their successors are elected at the next annual meeting. Nothing further remained but the selection of a place of meeting, and the assessment for the year. This was settled by a ballot by mail. I then renominated all the old committees that fell within my appointment and notified our secretary to apprise them of the fact. Every officer has, I believe, done his very best for the interest of the society, and in your hands is placed the record.

And now, in conclusion, I once more thank you for the honor you conferred upon me when you elected me as president of this society. My deepest gratitude is yours. You have supported me loyally in all my efforts for the good of the society and its members during the past strenuous year. I have had the kindest letters from the foremost men throughout the state, offering aid and counsel, and I take this opportunity of thanking them most heartily and sincerely. Bear with me kindly to the end of this session and let me lay down the gavel with the belief that I have served you well.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA—MINUTES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House of Delegates was called to order April 16th, 1907, 8:45 p. m., by the President, Dr. R. F. Rooney.

On roll-call it was found that 45 Delegates were present, and the President declared the House in session.

Dr. Parkinson introduced the following resolution, which was duly seconded and carried:

Resolved, that an Executive Committee of three be appointed by the President for the purpose of considering such matters as may be referred to it by the House of Delegates. The President then appointed as such committee Drs. J. H. Parkinson (chairman), J. Henry Barbat and F. M. Pottenger.

The report of the President had been made at the morning session and was now referred to the Executive Committee.

The report of the Secretary and Editor was then read and referred to the Executive Committee.

The report of the Council was then read and referred to the Executive Committee.

Dr. Parkinson then introduced the following: *Resolved*, that the report of the Council be adopted, and that its action on the various matters contained therein be, and it is hereby approved. Duly seconded and carried.

There was no report from the Committee on Scientific Work.

The report of the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation was presented by Dr. Parkinson and referred to the Executive Committee.

The amendments introduced at the Thirty-sixth

Annual Session were adopted, resulting in the following changes in the Constitution and By-Laws:

(a) By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 12. "The Secretary of each component society shall forward its assessment, together with its roster of officers and members, list of delegates and list of non-affiliated physicians of the county, to the Secretary of this Society before the first day of February of each year."

(b) Article X, Section 5, which reads as follows: "For the purpose of determining the amount of the assessment upon each component society for the fiscal year, the secretary of each component society shall file with the Secretary of the State Society on or before the first day of February of each year a statement of the number of members in good standing on the first day of January of such year as provided in Article I, Section 3. Names of additional members may be transmitted to the Secretary of this Society at any time during the year, but all names transmitted prior to the first day of August shall be accompanied by the assessment to the State Society for that year."

(c) Section 9. "A physician living on or near a county line may hold his membership in that county most convenient for him to attend, provided that the consent of the society of the county in which such physician may reside be first obtained."

(d) Section 14. "In counties where it is not practicable to organize a County Medical Society, any member of the profession in said county may have the privilege of uniting with the society of an adjoining county, but such membership shall continue only during the time that no organized County Medical Society exists in that county. If, however, it is more convenient for a physician who lives in one county to attend the meetings of an adjoining component society, he may continue as or become a member of such society, provided that jurisdiction be first waived by the society of the county in which such physician may reside."

Dr. Langley Porter then introduced a resolution to the effect that it was the sense of the general session, held on the morning of April 16th, that the House of Delegates co-operate with the Los Angeles County Association and other committees or societies in the matter of securing pure foods. This was referred to the Executive Committee.

A substitute motion was introduced by Dr. Matison, which was also referred to the Executive Committee.

There being no further business, the minutes were read and approved as read, and the House adjourned.

SECOND SESSION.

Wednesday evening, April 17th: Called to order at 8:40 p. m. by the President, Dr. Rooney; 48 Delegates present.

The Secretary announced the resignation of Dr. J. A. McKee as a Delegate from Sacramento County, and Dr. N. K. Foster was registered as his successor.

The report of the Executive Committee was then called for, and was read by the Chairman, Dr.